

7-25-1906

Letter from Margaret Whitney Pratt, New York, New York, to Anne Whitney, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1906 July 25

Margaret Whitney Pratt

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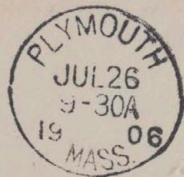
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1906

Miss Anne Whitney.
Plymouth
Mass.
Rocky Point.



fact she was taken ill in
a day or two - and after that
illness if you remember went
to the Adirondacks and staid
with Emily & Horace and came
home greatly braced up by
the change. - Since then she
has kept busy until the begin-
ning of this last illness - which
began the 15th of June, when
she was taken down at
Mamie's - with the attacks
of pain - perhaps, gall stones
- presume there will never
be any certainty of it. Emma
insisted upon it that her
heart was weak, and she
could not live through an
operation - and the doctors

Sea Gate - July 23rd
[1906]

Dear Aunt Anne.

This is a perfect
summer day, the air is clear
and the sun brilliant and
the shore across the bay
stands out clear and beau-
tiful - the first time in weeks
(so it seems to me) and with
all the life and beauty of
the morning we are thinking
of a new made grave and
the strange fact that Emma
who loved it all so well
and who for so many
years has given her energy
and loving service to her
friends - was so suddenly

and quietly passed out of
it all into the larger and
better life that we all hope
for. It certainly is like tearing
the joy and happiness of the
home life of her own immediate
family - up by the roots!

Literally Emma had "put her
house in order" - and finished
for other many domestic cares -
She seemed to have a presenti-
ment - that some physical
weakness was sapping her
strength and perhaps the
freedom from care and
the planning of the new home
with new interests for her
self and Ed. in their declining

years was not for her -
She told a friend who con-
gratulated her - that "it all
looked very pleasant in the
future - but she feared it
had come too late!" She should
never realize what she hoped
for - And she told George
and myself early in March
- and not in any flippant way -
"that she did not think she
should live through the Spring
- that she was convinced -
- she had something radically
wrong with her side - which
had troubled her so much
at times - Naturally we
tried to think of it as some
temporary depression - and in

with Florie until next week
about the 1st of August - I had
my plan for a visit with you
at that time as that was the
date you set in your cordial
invitation - Now I want to
visit and see what George
explains to do about that
operation - It would not be
going, would it - if we had no
anxieties ahead! I do not want
to be away from home if he
goes to the hospital - I could
not be contented to be away
from him even if all things
go well - and when he comes
out - he would certainly be at
home a few days for there is
no telling how long it takes to
get back one's strength - I
will write you again just as
soon as anything is settled

She had, did not at any
time advise one -

We were all at the funeral
except Charlie, Edith & Sumner
Charlie could not get down
from Arlington in time - Edith
has a young son - as you
have probably heard -

All the arrangements were
as simple and unconvention-
al as Emma herself would
have wished - the friends
were about her in doors and
out of doors - and the birds
at the door steps gave their
joyful little trills during
the reading of the service -
- Poor Col - it is a long
sad march of time for him

in the years to come, if he is
spared - without Emma
He loved the cheerful hospi-
table home life that she made
for them all - a more gracious
generous hostess and devoted
wife and mother never lived.
- Ed was here last evening
he came to see Aunt Mary -
He spoke of Emily's brave com-
posure and the comfort she
was to him in the way she had
taken the blow that had come
to them - Ed will stay at Point
Pleasant for the season - and
Herbert will keep him company
- Emily & Horace go back to
Rochester the last of next week
There is quite a colony of near

friends & some relatives at
Point Pleasant who will do
all they can for Ed - Emma's
burial there may be only tempo-
rary - but it seemed to be the
simplest and quietest way
for the time - as Ed had no
lot in Greenwood -

- From your own recent sorrow
you can realize the shadow
that weighs upon us all -

Aunt Mary was just rising
from her physical troubles &
despondency and greatly im-
paired in every way, when
this shock came - She is brave
but of course she cannot
rise above it, when all her
interests now are with her family
- She comes down stairs in the
afternoon - I expect to stay here